



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Petersburg  
National Battlefield

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## **Petersburg National Battlefield News Release**

Release Date: For Immediate Release

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Date: June 1, 2011

### **Hopewell Celebrates Juneteenth National Freedom Day – June 18**

**PETERSBURG, Va** – On Saturday, June 18 the Washington Cultural Foundation, Petersburg National Battlefield and the City of Hopewell present the 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Juneteenth. The Juneteenth National Freedom Celebration in America event begins at 10:00 am with a Libation ceremony on the James River Waterfront in the historic City Point section of Hopewell. Activities will continue at the General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield until 2:00 pm and will include music, lectures, artillery demonstrations, children's activities, and exhibitions.

#### **About Juneteenth**

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration to mark the partial end of slavery in the United States. Celebrated in over 200 cities, Juneteenth's origins are in Galveston, Texas where on June 19, 1865, slaves were informed of their freedom by Union troops including the United States Colored Troops. The commemoration, in modern times, celebrates the continued quest for freedom while also acknowledging the achievements of African Americans. Another goal of Juneteenth is to promote mutual respect among diverse cultures in our community.

#### **If you go**

The General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield is located at 1001 Pecan Avenue in Hopewell and is open seven days a week, every day of the year except for major holidays. The grounds are open until dark and include numerous wayside exhibits on the lawn surrounding the

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home and on the James River waterfront. For information about Juneteenth National Freedom Day, please contact Event Organizer Rebecca Rose at (804)541-2695 or Petersburg National Battlefield at (804) 732-3531.

### Details

On Saturday, June 18, 2011 a spectacular and moving libation ceremony takes place at the boardwalk along the James River, at the bottom of Pecan Avenue, starts this fifth annual family-oriented historical event at Petersburg National Battlefield City Point Unit. A short ceremonial walk commence to the grounds of the Appomattox Manor Plantation. The program is introduced by Rebecca Rose of The Washington Cultural Foundation. The Honorable Mayor Christian Bailey presides with welcome and presents The Juneteenth Proclamation from the City of Hopewell. A State official to present the Governor's Proclamation, followed by acknowledgement of event sponsors, supporters, dignitaries and guests.

Mr. Lewis Rogers, Superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield for the National Park Services is Keynote Speaker.

Festivities include performances by The Hopewell Christian-Aires, The Sanctuary Choir, Judah Praise Youth Choir from Mt. Carmel Baptist, Angel DeCarlo, Emily DeCarlo and others along with displays, exhibits, and a meet and greet reception. The 'Inspiration Pavilion' will feature Health information by the South Regional Medical Center, Genealogical Research information by the Appomattox Regional Library, The Thirteen Forgotten by Ranger Robert Webster, The Washington Cultural Foundation's Art and History exhibits, Virginia State University, and Maggie Walker Museum. Petersburg National Battlefield rangers will provide artillery demonstrations, interpretive tours of the house and grounds, and history-related activities for kids. We welcome the Mark Matthews Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers presentation again this year.

Petersburg National Battlefield was created in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865. The park staff is committed to preserving and protecting the historical, cultural, and natural resources within the park in a manner that will provide interpretation, education, and enjoyment for the visitors. Park Visitor Centers, located in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Dinwiddie County are each open from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The fee to enter the park is \$5 per vehicle, however the Petersburg National Battlefield annual pass and federal recreation passes are also honored. For more information about events at Petersburg National Battlefield, you can become a fan on our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter @PetersburgNPS.

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